

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03997

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, UR, AO, GW
SUBJECT: SPECULATION ON HEALTH OF AGOSTINHO NETO
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1. FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST. DURING SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT APRIL 15 IN MUNICH BEFORE CONVENTION OF US RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, AMBASSADOR BENNETT HAD OCCASION TO TALK WITH DR. STEIN OF BAVARIAN STATE GOVERNMENT. IN CONVERSATION AT DINNER STEIN INDICATED HE WOULD BE HEADING MUNICH RECEPTION COMMITTEE FOR APRIL 21 WEEK-END VISIT OF GROUP HEADED BY FNLA OFFICIAL DANIEL CHIPENDA. STEIN SAID ANGOLAN WITH WHOM HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT BELIEVED NETO TO BE NEAR DEATH. IN FACT, WE HAD IMPRESSION THEY EXPECTED NETO'S DEMISE WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, SAID STEIN, WOULD OBVIOUSLY CHANGE CHARACTER OF CHIPENDA VISIT IF INDEED IT STILL TOOK PLACE. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT RESULTS MIGHT COME OF VISIT TO FRG BY CHIPENDA AND HIS PARTY BUT GERMANS WOULD OF COURSE WORK FOR POSITIVE OUTCOME FOR WESTERN INTERESTS.

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COMMENT: CONVERSATION REPORTED ABOVE, OF COURSE, TOOK PLACE AT HEIGHT OF PERIOD OF CONJECTURE ABOUT NETO'S HEALTH AND PRIOR TO REPORTS OF NETO'S PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN THE CRIMEA. END COMMENT. GLITMAN

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